



# **MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH**

One Avenue A · Turners Falls, MA 01376

Telephone 413- 863-3200 Ext. 205 · Fax 413 -863 -3225

DANIEL WASIUK  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**April 28, 2020**

## **ADVISORY OF THE MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH AND MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

On March 15, 2020, the Montague Board of Health and Montague Selectboard declared a state of emergency in the Town of Montague to respond to the spread of COVID-19. To help further slow the spread of COVID-19, a meeting of the Board of Health and Selectboard on April 27, 2020 has established a “Strong Advisory” regarding the expansion of facial mask/facial covering usage by all employees of businesses providing essential services within the Town of Montague and all consumers of these businesses.

This new Public Health “Strong Advisory” on the use of facial masks is intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by having businesses implement policies which are conducive to encouraging employees and consumers to utilize facial mask or facial coverings during operational hours. The Board of Health and Selectboard urge businesses and the public entering these business locations, to wear facial mask or facial coverings in order to reduce risk of possible disease transmission associated with COVID-19.

On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued an advisory concerning the wearing of face covering when people are unable to maintain safe social distancing (a distance defined as six (6) feet or greater). On April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued a similar advisory regarding the wearing of face coverings in public. This “Strong Advisory” is in alignment with both the CDC and MDPH advice on using protection on the face of an individual for the purpose of reducing exposure to viral droplets and human excretions which can carry the viral agent, COVID-19.


Usage of a facial mask or facial coverings is absolutely an effective way to protect yourself and others against COVID-19. This use of masks/facial coverings, in conjunction with social distancing efforts, are essential against the pandemic facing the entire country.

*The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*

Please heed this "Strong Advisory" and institute the use of facial masks or facial coverings for all employees of businesses and the consumers who frequent these business entities. The Montague Board of Health and Montague Selectboard appreciate the anticipated cooperation of all businesses and the general public.

This "Strong Advisory" shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect during the declaration of the State of Emergency for the Town of Montague.

Sincerely,

 4/28/2020  
Daniel Wasiuk  
Director of Public Health

 4/28/2020  
Albert Cummings  
Board of Health Chair